

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. The amendments to Claims 1 and 15 do not raise any new issues and no further search is required.

The Examiner rejected the independent Claims 1 and 15 over the patent to Evanicky (6,243,068) based on the Examiner's opinion that Claims 1 and 15 did not sufficiently preclude the combination of red, green, and blue light being coupled to each of the claimed first, second, and third light guides. In Applicants' response to the previous office action, it was pointed out to the Examiner that Evanicky used the terms "red light source" and "blue light source" simply to convey the relative temperature of the white light (RGB components) produced by each source coupled to their respective light guides.

In a telephone call to the Examiner on April 30, 2003, the Examiner agreed that the present amendments made to the claims would preclude the claims from covering the Evanicky light guides that couple the "red light source" and "blue light source." The Examiner asked Applicants' attorney to enter such amendments formally.

Accordingly, since the Examiner's entire basis for the rejection of all claims was based on a construction of the claims that allowed RGB light to be coupled to each of the claimed light guides, and since that basis no longer exists, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are allowable over the prior art.

Since Evanicky teaches away from the claimed invention by requiring white light to be coupled to each light guide, Evanicky could not be combined with the other references to suggest Applicants' claims.

The Examiner rejected Claim 15 as being obvious over Hunter (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,345) in view of Evanicky. In the present office action, the examiner did not address Applicants' previous reasons why the combination could not render Claim 15 obvious, so these reasons are reproduced below.

Hunter discloses the use of red, green, and blue LEDs in an LCD and describes a "diffusant screen 120" (column 4, line 45) to diffuse the light from the red, green, and blue LEDs. Based on the disclosure by Hunter, it cannot be suggested that each of the red, green,

and blue light sources is coupled to a separate light guide. It is noted in column 6, lines 3-4, that the red, green, and blue LEDs are driven sequentially and cyclically by the LED drive circuit 250. This suggests the use of a single diffusant screen 120.

Accordingly, combining Hunter with Evanicky cannot suggest Claim 15.

Although additional arguments for patentability can be applied to the various rejected dependent claims, such arguments are believed not necessary in view of the clear distinction of the independent claims over Evanicky and Hunter.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 6-9 and 17-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

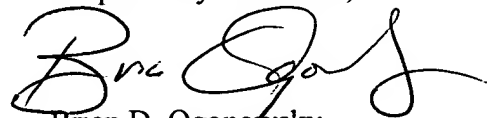
In view of the above arguments, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. It is also respectfully submitted that the finality of the present office action be withdrawn because, in the first office action, the Examiner apparently based his rejection on his belief that Evanicky's "red light source" and "blue light source" generated red light and blue light, respectively, rather than white light. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480 ext. 202.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 5/8/03.


Attorney for Applicant(s)

5/8/03
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Brian D. Ogonowsky
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 31,988